

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SY-05 MCT-02
COME-00 ACDA-12 GSA-02 DOE-15 SOE-02 EB-08
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /114 W
-----085393 121908Z /46

R 120726Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1402
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CINCPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI
CINCPACREPPH SUBIC BAY RP
JCS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
13THAF CLARK AB RP
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MARR, MASS, RP
SUBJECT: MARCOS DESCRIBES SECURITY SCENE; ANNOUNCES AFP
BUDGET CUT

1. MARCOS, SPEAKING SEPT. 9 AT AN AFP "LOYALTY PARADE"
RELATING TO HIS 61ST BIRTHDAY SEPTEMBER 11, MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

- A. THE COUNTRY'S GRAVEST SECURITY CHALLENGE IS
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INTERNAL NOT EXTERNAL. THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH
REQUIRES CONTINUED POLICE ACTION. IF TERRORISM IS NOT
CHECKED, "THERE WILL BE A WEAKENING IN THE CIVILIAN
COMMUNITIES THAT WILL ALLOW THE REBEL FORCES TO GROW AND
GATHER STRENGTH."

- B. WHILE THERE ARE NO IMMEDIATE EXTERNAL THREATS, THE

RIVALRY AMONG THE SUPERPOWERS IS THE "GREATEST SINGLE
THREAT TO PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA."

- C. THE TROUBLE IN INDOCHINA COULD DETERIORATE AND
IMPERIL THE ENTIRE REGION. EMPHASIS SHOULD BE ON MULTI-
NATION EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH AN EQUILIBRIUM OF INFLUENCE
IN THE REGION AND ON INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION TO DEFUSE
THE PRESENT HOSTILITIES IN INDOCHINA.

- D. WHILE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE AFP CONTINUES,
PHILIPPINE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WILL COME AHEAD OF
MILITARY NEEDS IN THE ORDER OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES.

- E. THE MILITARY BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR HAS BEEN REDUCED
TO FUNNEL MORE MONEY TO THE NATION'S EXPANDING ECONOMY.
THIS WAS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE MILITARY'S SUCCESS IN
PLACING THE PEACE AND ORDER SITUATION UNDER CONTROL AND BY
CUTTING COSTS OF ITS OPERATIONS.

2. COMMENT: MARCOS' COMMENTS ABOUT REDUCING THE AFP
BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR WERE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST. WE WILL
BE SEEKING MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE MAGNITUDE OF SUCH
CUTS, RECOGNIZING THAT THIS MAY NOT BE EASY BECAUSE THE
TRUE AFP BUDGET IS CAREFULLY VEILED BY THE GOP. THE SIGNI-
FICANT POINT IS THAT MARCOS HAS PUBLICLY TOLD HIS ARMED
FORCES THAT THERE WILL BE CUTS. TOUSSAINT
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Message Attributes

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